

Council extends East Paddock management

Macedon Ranges Shire Council will continue its role as Committee of Management for the East Paddock at Hanging Rock until December 31 next year.

Councillors voted in favour of the move at their August meeting.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action requested to extend the council's appointment to continue management while longer-term arrangements for the reserve and broader Hanging Rock precinct were considered. However, DEECA acknowledged council's advice regarding the costs associated with management of the East Paddock and noted that, while no funding commitment could be made at this stage, potential funding opportunities continued to be explored to support council's land management responsibilities and implementation of the Hanging Rock Precinct Master Plan.

MRSC was previously appointed to the role until September 6 this year.

In 2018, the Victorian Government and council endorsed the 50-year Hanging Rock Strategic Plan, which established a long-term vision for the management, protection and use of the Hanging Rock precinct.

A key direction within the strategic plan was the acquisition of the East Paddock by the state and its integration into the broader Hanging Rock Reserve to support coordinated management of the precinct and the protection of its environmental, cultural and landscape values.

In 2023, the state government announced the purchase of the East Paddock and released the Hanging Rock Precinct Master Plan.

Council was to continue to manage the day-to-day operations of Hanging Rock while longer-term management arrangements were explored.